

RECOGNIZING LEWIS H. WEBBER,  
A TRUE WORKING-CLASS CHAM-  
PION

### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 24, 2021*

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lewis Webber, the President of Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees (SOAR) Chapter 4-6, for a lifetime of fighting for the working class.

Lewis Webber was born days before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in December of 1941 so he was always ready for a good fight. Advocating for the workers at Bethlehem Steel was in his blood, as many of his relatives, including his father, were employed there. Growing up in a union household, he and his brother heard all the stories from their father about the strikes at Bethlehem Steel, including the famous 53-day 1952 Steelworkers strike, ending with a victory for the hard-working Steelworkers.

It was not a surprise that both Lewis and his brother would also go on to work many years of their lives at Bethlehem Steel. Lewis started working at Bethlehem Steel in October of 1964. He was a member in three separate unions: United Steelworkers, Truckdrivers Local Union, and the United Autoworkers. As a member of the United Steelworkers, he recalls fighting to make sure that the proper withholding was taken out of the employees checks. Later, in 1985, Mr. Webber officially won a grievance against Bethlehem Steel, providing 22 workers an additional \$238 a week for two years, and a pension for the rest of their lives.

When Bethlehem Steel shut its doors, the Western New York community was devastated; however, that didn't stop Lewis Webber from continuing to fight for those who had worked there. He joined the Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees (SOAR), Chapter 4-6 and put the skills he learned from earlier battles to work as he rose in the ranks of leadership becoming Trustee in 1997, Vice President in 2007, and President of the Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees, Chapter 4-6 in 2008. There are 430 members of SOAR, Chapter 4-6 who rely on his leadership today.

Lewis Webber always says that you can never fight these battles alone. His number one supporter was his wife, Beverly who unfortunately passed away in 2011. She was also Secretary of the Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees, Chapter 4-6. His children Rosemary, LuAnn, and Kathleen, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren are always by his side, fighting the good fight.

Mr. Webber joined our fight over a decade ago to help former Bethlehem Steel employees receive compensation under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program (EEOICP) and he continues to work with my office to ensure eligible retirees receive the benefits they deserve. Over \$300 million has been paid out to workers and their families after they were exposed to radiation while working at Bethlehem Steel.

Lewis Webber offered many words of advice, including "I am not doing this to make people millionaires; I am doing this to get them what they need to get by in this world.

I am not doing this to help just the Steelworkers; I am doing this to help all Americans," and, "Always fight using your brains, not your fists. At the end of the day your knowledge of the contract will be more likely to help you win the battle." His words demonstrate his commitment to his fellow workers and his lifetime of experience advocating for the interests of Steelworkers.

Many Bethlehem Steel retirees and their families who live in Western New York are better off because Lewis Webber has never stopped and will never stop fighting for them. Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the lifelong commitment that Lewis Webber has shown to the former employees of Bethlehem Steel, the greater Western New York community, and the United States as a whole.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL  
SHAWN P. HARKINS FOR 25  
YEARS OF MILITARY SERVICE

### HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 24, 2021*

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant Colonel Shawn P. Harkins for 25 years of distinguished military service.

LTC Harkins has made immeasurable contributions to our great nation and continues to personify the core U.S. Army values of honor, integrity, personal courage, and selfless service. He has served in various positions throughout his career, culminating as the 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne) Executive Officer at Fort Bragg.

Over the course of his extraordinary career, LTC Harkins has answered the call of duty many times. He has deployed in excess of 34 months overseas in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM and Operation IRAQI FREEDOM, and his leadership has directly influenced political stability across the globe. As the 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne) Executive Officer, LTC Harkins managed a staff of 2,500 soldiers and civilians and he is credited with producing change in the areas of maintenance, readiness, and processes.

LTC Harkins retires as a recipient of multiple awards and decorations and embodies all the qualities of a selfless hero who has answered the call to serve. Our state and country are better because of citizens like him.

As Fort Bragg's Congressman, I know I speak for our nation and community when I say we are truly grateful for LTC Harkins' extraordinary service and cannot thank him enough. I would like to offer my sincerest appreciation and wish him success in his future endeavors.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in honoring Lieutenant Colonel Shawn P. Harkins for 25 years of military service.

RECOGNIZING THE PI CHAPTER OF  
ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SOROR-  
ITY, INC. ON ITS CENTENNIAL  
ANNIVERSARY

### HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 24, 2021*

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Pi Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated (AKA) on its Centennial Anniversary and for a century of service to the Fisk University students, community and the state of Tennessee.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority's Pi Chapter at Fisk University celebrates its 100-year Anniversary. In addition, I am humbled that they chose to honor me, Congresswoman FREDERICA S. WILSON, as the University's First AKA Congressional member. I was initiated into the Pi Chapter in the Fall of 1960. Congressional representatives participating include Congressional Black Caucus Chair Congresswoman JOYCE BEATTY and seven AKA Congresswomen—EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, SHEILA JACKSON LEE, TERRI SEWELL, ALMA ADAMS, BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN, LAUREN UNDERWOOD, and NIKEMA WILLIAMS.

Fisk Graduate and Pi Chapter initiated Chairperson Kimmie Jackson and current Pi Chapter President Taylor Woodard graciously welcomed and thanked the audience for joining this inaugural and auspicious occasion while inspiring all to take action and uphold the sorority's purpose of being "Service To All Mankind."

Representative SHEILA JACKSON LEE (TX) noted that Pi Chapter was the first undergraduate chapter in the South Atlantic Region and that the women of Pi Chapter are known for their honor, academic prowess, and leadership skills. She compared Rep. WILSON to Sojourner Truth who never stepped away her vision and served as a leader in education and civil rights. Rep. WILSON founded the 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project and was a leader in the demand to find the 276 Nigerian girls kidnapped by Boko Haram.

Representative ALMA ADAMS (NC) praised Pi Chapter as being the most civically engaged women of goodwill and good work beyond measure. She noted that Honoree WILSON the 5000 Role Models founder has always been a champion of the underserved and that like her fellow Pi Chapter graduates illuminate the opportunities available to women across the country and the world.

Representative EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON (TX) sent congratulatory wishes to Pi Chapter and notes that it stands on the shoulders of many trailblazers. She acknowledged Congresswoman WILSON's visionary leadership and service as an undeterred true champion for black girls and boys.

Representative TERRI SEWELL (AL) congratulated Pi Chapter on its Centennial and reminded members that AKA Coretta Scott King famously observed "struggle is a never-ending process . . . we earn it and win it in every generation." Representative SEWELL praised Centennial Honoree WILSON for expanding opportunities for all Americans, founding 5000 Role Models Project, and sponsoring legislation to create the Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys.

Representative LAUREN UNDERWOOD (IL) remarked that Pi Chapter has had a tremendous